Radio/TV/Pamphlets/Brochures/Local Dak Mela/Puppet Shows/ 'Bal Bachat Yojana' for school children in rural areas/small savings agents etc.

(iii) Motivational Savings Bank Training is being imparted to postal staff, Branch Postmasters, Gramin Dak Sevaks to educate the villagers about the different small savings schemes available in the Post Office and guiding them on investment.

(f) Yes, Sir. A children policy is proposed to be introduced in both PLI and RPLI. We have already sent the proposal to Insurance Division for necessary approval, which has referred the matter to IRDA.

Navaratna status to VSNL

†1136. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether VSNL has demanded the status of Navaratna from government; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) was a Navaratna Company before its disinvestments on 13.02.2002. Presently it is privately managed company with Central Government having only 26.12% of stake and therefore, it is not a Public Sector Enterprises (P.S.E.) and is not eligible for Navaratna status.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Modernization of BSNL

†1137. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide the cheapest cellular services in comparison to private cellular services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to modernize the BSNL for this purpose; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL's and MTNL's cellular tariff are quite customer friendly and on overall basis, they are either cheaper or comparable to the tariff of other operators. There is no proposal for further reduction in the tariff at this stage.

(c) and (d) Based on its business decision and commercial viability, BSNL is continuing to install latest and proven technology system to provide new services like GPRS (General Packet Radio Services), MMS (Multi Media Messaging Service) and EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for Global Evolution) for provision of high data rate etc. in its mobile network.

Single calling rates

1138. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering adoption of a single calling rate, irrespective of distance called, within the country;

(b) if so, the status of the implementation of the above proposal and the proposed time-frame for the launch of the same;

(c) whether all stake-holders, including telecom companies have agreed to the proposal; and

(d) if not, the details of their grievances and the steps being taken to address them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) While Government are working towards One India Call Rate, the proposed measure is at initial stage. No time-frame can be fixed for the same for its introduction. It is premature, at this stage for any grievance/ agreement of stake-holders.

Agreement with Intel

1139. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: